

In the Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended) A clear intumescent interlayer produced by drying a clear stable aqueous solution comprising an alkali metal silicate waterglass, a water soluble aluminate and a hydroxy carboxylic acid according to under controlled conditions.

Claim 18 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 comprising from 10 to 35% by weight of water.

Claim 19 (previously presented) An interlayer according claim 17 comprising from 0.1 to 5.0% by weight of aluminium.

Claim 20 (previously presented) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the interlayer has a thickness of from 0.5 to 2.0 mm.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A glass sheet having an interlayer according to claim 17 on one surface thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A laminated glazing which comprises one or more interlayers according to claim 17 and two or more sheets of glass.

Claim 23-27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the water soluble aluminate used in the production thereof is an alkali metal aluminate.

Claim 29 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the water soluble aluminate used in the production thereof is a sodium aluminate.

Claim 30 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is an α -hydroxy carboxylic acid.

Claim 31 (new) An interlayer according to claim 30 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid used in the production thereof is selected from the group comprising tartaric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, saccharic acid and citric acid.

Claim 32 (new) An interlayer according to claim 31 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid used in the production thereof is citric acid.

Claim 33 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{M}_2\text{O}$ of from 2.0:1 to 4.0:1 where M represents an alkali metal cation.

Claim 34 (new) An interlayer according to claim 33 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof comprises a sodium silicate waterglass which has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ of from 2.5:1 to 3.0:1.

Claim 35 (new) An interlayer according to claim 33 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass used in the production thereof comprises a potassium silicate waterglass

Claim 36 (new) An interlayer according to claim 35 wherein the potassium silicate used in the production thereof has a weight ratio $\text{SiO}_2:\text{K}_2\text{O}$ of from 1.43:1 to 2.05:1.

Claim 37 (new) An interlayer according to claim 35 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of sodium ions to potassium ions is at least 2:1.

Claim 38 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of silicon to aluminum is in the range 20:1 to 35:1.

Claim 39 (new) An interlayer according to claim 38 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the molar ratio of silicon to aluminum is in the range 25:1 to 32:1.

Claim 40 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein, within the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof, the weight ratio of silica to alkali metal oxide is in the range 2:1 to 4:1.

Claim 41 (new) An interlayer according to claim 17 wherein the clear aqueous solution used in the production thereof further comprises a polyhydric compound.

Claim 42 (currently amended) An interlayer according to claim 41 wherein the polyhydric compound used in the production thereof is glycerol.